Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3205

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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PLEASE PASS CODEL WOLFF, CODEL IPU AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TW, US, OREP (GOLDWATER, BARRY M.) SUBJECT: SENATOR GOLDWATER'S VISIT TO TAIWAN

REF: (A) TAIPEI 2088, (B) TAIPEI 2020, (C) TAIPEI 1985

1. SENATOR AND MRS. GOLDWATER, ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR FRIENDS RETIRED GENERAL AND MRS. QUINN, VISITED THE ROC FROM APRIL 7-14 AT THE INVITATION OF TAMKANG COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES. DURING HIS VISIT, GOLDWATER MET WITH THE PRESIDENT, THE PREMIER, THE FOREIGN MINISTER, GOVERNOR HSIEH TUNG-MIN AND OTHER HIGH-RANKING GROC OFFICIALS AND WAS ENTERTAINED AT LUNCH BY AMBASSADOR UNGER. HE VISITED KAOHSIUNG, TAICHUNG, HUALIEN AND KINMEN. ALL OF HIS ACTIVITIES AND STATEMENTS WERE GIVEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE AND HIGHLY FAVORABLE EDITORIAL COMMENT.

2. DURING HIS STAY, THE MEDIA REPORTED MANY GOLDWATER STATE-MENTS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT US-PRC NORMALIZATION MAY MEAN INCREASED TRADE BUT THAT IT DID NOT MEAN TO HIM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC TIES; THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND CONGRESS ARE "ON THE SIDE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA" AND THAT HE DID NOT SEE THAT "THE NORMALIZATION (OF RELATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND PEKING) WILL HAPPEN ALL AT ONCE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE;" AND THAT "THERE IS NO VALIDITY TO THE PAPER (SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE) SIGNED BY (FORMER PRESIDENT) NIXON, WHICH CARRIES NO FORCE OF LAW AT ALL. SO WE WILL GO BACK TO THE TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS WHICH WE HAVE HISTORICALLY HELD WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA." GOLDWATER REPORTEDLY SAID THAT "I HAVE HEARD NOTHING IN THE HALLS OF OUR CONGRESS NOR FROM PRESIDENTS NOR FROM SECRETARY OF STATES (SIC) WHICH INDICATES ANY DESIRE TO BACK AWAY FROM THE COVENANTS OF THAT TREATY."

- 3. SENATOR GOLDWATER LEFT A CLEAR PUBLIC IMPRESSION THAT FURTHER PROGRESS IN NORMALIZATION WOULD HAVE TO BE ACHIEVED VIA OPEN CONSULTATION WITH THE CONGRESS. HE WAS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT A TWO-THIRDS SENATE APPROVAL WOULD BE REQUIRED TO RECOGNIZE THE PRC AND TO ABROGATE THE SINO-AMERICAN MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY. HE CHARACTERIZED THE PRESIDENT AS A POLITICAL MAN WHO KNOWS HE NEEDS CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENT ALL OF HIS PROGRAMS AND THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD THEREFORE HAVE TO CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE SENTIMENT IN CONGRESS AGAINST ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH PEKING.
- 4. ON THE MILITARY SIDE, GOLDWATER WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA STANDS NOW MORE IMPORTANTLY, IN MY OPINION, IN THE MILITARY WAY OF OUR SIDE THAN DOES JAPAN (SIC). THIS IS THE BASTION WE START WITH IN THE FAR PACIFIC." THE SENATOR REPORTEDLY RECOMMENDED THAT THE ROC BE PROVIDED WITH MORE MODERN NAVAL AND AIR FORCE EQUIPMENT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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5. COMMENT: THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT SENATOR GOLDWATER'S WELL-PUBLICIZED VISIT WILL FAN HOPES IN SOME QUARTERS HERE THAT US-PRC NORMALIZATION CAN BE SLOWED OR HALTED. THE KNOW-LEDGE THAT TWO OTHER CODELS (SPARKMAN AND WOLFF) AND EA ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE ARE EXPECTED IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS WILL INEVITABLY ENHANCE THE EFFECT. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT YET SAY TO WHAT DEGREE THEY WILL INFLUENCE WHAT WE STILL PERCEIVE AS A STRONG GENERAL ASSUMPTION HERE THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND PEKING IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME.

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